Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~The interface circuit according to Claim 1 characterized in that~~ An interface circuit for transferring a control signal from a small-signal circuit to a power transistor, for driving said power transistor, said interface circuit comprising a noise absorber for electrically absorbing noise voltage produced between ground of said small-signal circuit and that of said power transistor; wherein,

said noise absorber ensures that said control signal produced by said small-signal circuit is transferred to said power transistor, without being affected by said noise voltage if produced;

said noise absorber comprises one of a constant voltage dead band generator that does not allow current to flow until a certain voltage is reached, [[or]] and a constant current dead band generator that allows constant current to flow until a certain voltage is reached[[,]]; and

[[wherein]] said dead band electrically absorbs the influence of said noise

voltage.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The interface circuit according to Claim 2 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said noise absorber further comprises, in addition to said constant voltage dead band;

a low signal generator for generating [[the]] a low signal corresponding to [[the]] a low level of said control signal; and

a high signal generator for generating a high signal corresponding to [[the]] a high level of said control signal.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The interface circuit according to Claim 3 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said dead band voltage Vc of said constant voltage dead band is set at a level higher than said noise voltage Vnoise.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The interface circuit according to Claim 2 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said noise absorber further comprises, in addition to said constant current dead band, a current/voltage converting circuit that generates a high signal by converting constant current into voltage when said constant current is allowed to flow by said constant current dead band.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The interface circuit according to Claim 1 characterized by further comprising~~ An interface circuit for transferring a control signal from a small-signal circuit to a power transistor, for driving said

power transistor, said interface circuit comprising a noise absorber for electrically absorbing noise voltage produced between ground of said small-signal circuit and that of said power transistor; wherein

said noise absorber ensures that said control signal produced by said small-signal circuit is transferred to said power transistor, without being affected by said noise voltage if produced; and

said interface circuit further comprises a signal amplifier that converts the control signal outputted by said noise absorber, into [[the]] signal level for turning on or off said power transistor.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The interface circuit according to Claim 6 ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein a difference between power voltage VDC and logic voltage amplitude ΔVlogic of said signal amplifier (VDC - ΔVlogic) is set at a level higher than said noise voltage Vnoise.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The interface circuit according to Claim 8 characterized in that~~ An interface circuit for transferring a control signal to a module containing a semiconductor device, said control signal being outputted from a controller for driving said semiconductor device, wherein said interface circuit comprise:

receiving means for electrically receiving said control signal outputted from said controller;

transferring means for transferring to said module said control signal received by said receiving means, ignoring changes in the level of said control signal caused by a difference of voltage between ground potential of said controller and that of said semiconductor device;

wherein said transferring means is a noise absorber for electrically absorbing said difference of voltage.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The interface circuit according to Claim 9 ~~characterized in that~~ said noise absorber comprises:

a dead band generator that generates [[the]] one of a low voltage dead band that does not allow current to flow until a certain voltage is reached, [[or]] and a constant current dead band that allows constant current to flow until a certain voltage is reached, thereby absorbing said difference of voltage;

a low signal generator for generating [[the]] a low signal corresponding to [[the]] a low level of said control signal; and

a high signal generator for generating [[the]] a high signal corresponding to [[the]] high level of said control signal.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The interface circuit according to

Claim 10 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the dead band voltage of said dead band generator is set at a level higher than said difference of voltage.

Claim 12 (currently): The interface circuit according to Claim 10 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said noise absorber comprises a current/voltage converting circuit that generates a high signal by converting constant current into voltage when said constant current is allowed to flow by said constant current dead band generator.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The interface circuit according to Claim [[8]] 9 further comprising an amplifier that converts said control signal outputted by said transferring means, into the level of said semiconductor device drive signal.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The interface circuit according to Claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the difference between power voltage and logic voltage amplitude of said signal amplifier is set at a level higher than said difference of voltage.

Claim 15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (currently amended): A power converter comprising:

a power transistor[[,]];

a small-signal circuit for driving said power transistor[[,]]; and

an interface circuit for allowing the control signal to be transferred to said power transistor from said small-signal circuit; wherein,

said interface circuit ~~comprising~~ comprises a noise absorber that electrically absorbs [[the]] noise voltage produced between [[the]] ground of said small-signal circuit and that of said power transistor, by the stray inductance of said power transistor and a power module consisting of this power transistor;

said noise absorber is operated as one of a constant voltage dead band generator that does not allow current to flow until a certain voltage is reached, and a constant current dead band generator that allows constant current to flow until a certain voltage is reached; and

~~said power converter further characterized in that~~ said noise absorber ensures that said control signal produced by said small-signal circuit is transferred to said power transistor, without being affected by said noise voltage if produced.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A power converter ~~according to Claim 16 characterized in that~~ comprising:

a power transistor;

a small-signal circuit for driving said power transistor; and

an interface circuit for allowing the control signal to be transferred to said

power transistor from said small-signal circuit; wherein;

said interface circuit comprises a noise absorber that electrically absorbs noise voltage produced between the ground of said small-signal circuit and that of said power transistor, by the stray inductance of said power transistor and a power module consisting of this power transistor;

said noise absorber ensures that said control signal produced by said small-signal circuit is transferred to said power transistor, without being affected by said noise voltage if produced;

said interface circuit further comprises a signal amplifier for converting the control signal outputted by said noise absorber, into the signal level for turning on or off said power transistor[[,]]; and [[the]]

a difference between power voltage VDC of said interface circuit and logic voltage amplitude ΔVlogic of said signal amplifier (VDC - ΔVlogic) is set at a level higher than said noise voltage Vnoise.

Claim 18 (currently amended): [[The]] A power converter ~~according to Claim 16 characterized in that~~ comprising:

a power transistor;

a small-signal circuit for driving said power transistor; and

an interface circuit for allowing the control signal to be transferred to said

power transistor from said small-signal circuit; wherein;

said interface circuit comprises a noise absorber that electrically absorbs noise voltage produced between the ground of said small-signal circuit and that of said power transistor, by the stray inductance of said power transistor and a power module consisting of this power transistor;

said noise absorber ensures that said control signal produced by said small-signal circuit is transferred to said power transistor, without being affected by said noise voltage if produced;

a soft-switching gate-drive circuit for reducing the switching speed of said power transistor is arranged between said interface circuit and power transistor.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The power converter character according to Claim 18, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said power transistor switching speed is set by said soft-switching gate-drive circuit in such a way that [[the]] a value[[,]] obtained by multiplying the inductance L of said stray inductance by [[the]] a change of current I (dI/dt) flowing through said power transistor upon gradual switching of the power transistor by means of said soft-switching gate-drive circuit, does not exceed the difference between power voltage VDC of said interface circuit and logic voltage amplitude ΔVlogic of said signal amplifier (VDC - ΔVlogic).

Claim 20 (original): An electric vehicle comprising:

a wheel drive motor;

a power converter for converting d.c. power supplied from a d.c. power source into a.c. power, and for controlling the current supplied to said motor;

wherein said power converter comprises:

a power transistor;

a motor small-signal circuit for driving said power transistor; and

an interface circuit for transferring control signals from this motor small-signal circuit to said power transistor;

wherein said interface circuit comprises a noise absorber that electrically absorbs the noise voltage produced between the ground of said small-signal circuit and that of said power transistor, by the stray inductance of said power transistor and a power module consisting of this power transistor;

said electric vehicle further characterized in that said noise absorber ensures that said control signal produced by said small-signal circuit is transferred to said power transistor, without being affected by said noise voltage if produced.